

hauls. The skipper of the vessel confirmed that this is the first time that such a shoal of Red Snapper was caught by the vessel. There seems to be no record of occurrence of such large shoals of this particular species around Cochin waters.

The sea bottom at the fishing grounds was predominantly muddy with plenty of shells. Other varieties of fishes which were found with the catch were Sharks, Skates and Rays (20 Kg), white fish (2 Kg), small carangids (3 Kg), small jew fishes (3 Kg), flat fishes (5 Kg), Barracuda (3 Kg), Cat fishes (100 Kg) and Sand lobsters (3 Kg).

The catch/hr for Red Snapper, at this ground worked out for this particular haul to 652 Kg/hr.

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10. A PARTIAL AMBICOLORATION IN THE INDIAN HALIBUT *PSETTODES ERUMEI* (BLOCH) (PSETTODIDAE : PLEURONECTIFORMES) FROM PORTO NOVO, S. INDIA

(With a text-figure)

Ambicoloration or pigmentation on the blind side of the flat fishes is said to be associated with the tendency to regain bilateral symmetry (Norman 1934)¹.

On 19th February, 1971, an ambicolorate specimen (Fig. 1) of the Indian halibut *Psettodes erumei* (Bloch) (Psettodidae) was caught in a commercial catch of 17 normal specimens of the same species was made at Porto Novo. This is the first time that an ambicolorate specimen has been collected from this area. The specimen measuring 312 mm in total length, is normal on its ocular side. On the blind side, however,

¹Norman, J. R. (1934): A systematic monograph of the flat fishes. (Heterostomata) I. pp. 22-27. London.

one-third of the body towards the anterior side shows a white patch towards the dorsal fin. The pigmentation extends posteriorly from the

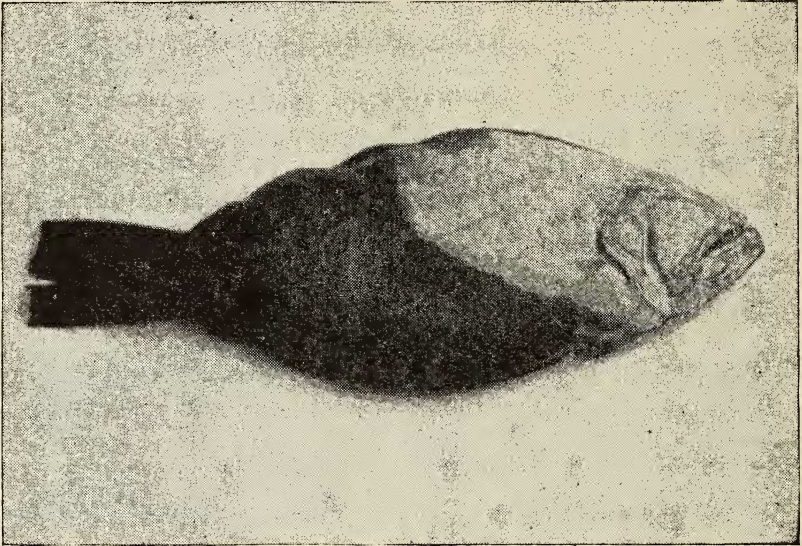


Fig. 1. *Psettodes erumei* (Bloch). View of ambicolorate specimen from blind side.

pelvic fin ending along the 30th ray of the dorsal fin in a diagonal manner. Excepting for the coloration the fish was normal in all other respects.

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